

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, it is critical to bring awareness to the residents of Tampa about the current and projected impacts of climate change on our communities, state, and nation, and promote actions to become a part of the solution to ensure a sustainable planet for future generations, and in 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations reported that sustained mitigation and rapid adaptation actions in response to human-caused climate change are necessary to secure a livable future for all, as it would reduce projected losses and damages for humans and the ecosystems our health and economy are dependent on; and

WHEREAS, Florida is greatly impacted by the adverse effects of climate change, and its hurricanes are projected to be more frequent and severe, and the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel (CSAP) projects that the Tampa region can expect 11" to 2.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and between 1.9 to 8.5 feet by 2100, and the Tampa will likely experience eroded beaches, coastal flooding, and extreme heat, with July of 2023 being Tampa's hottest month on record; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the 117th United States Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), supported by Representative Kathy Castor, representing the 14th District of Florida and former chair of the House of Representatives House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, the most significant climate legislation in the nation's history, which includes \$369 billion to support climate action throughout the United States by funding programs and incentives to transition to clean energy under a lens of environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the City of Tampa published its first Climate Action & Equity Plan and 100% Clean and Renewable Municipal Energy Plan, setting 56 actions across 10 climate action categories to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change by increasing resilience in our communities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the transition to 100% renewable energy by 2045, and engaging communities along the way; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa furthered its commitment to a sustainable future through the hiring of two full-time staff positions and AmeriCorps service members, increasing the capacity of its Sustainability and Resilience Officer to advocate for and accomplish climate action initiatives, and completing two rooftop solar installations on city buildings, helping to reduce the long-term cost of the city's energy bill of \$24.5 million in 2022, and reducing energy consumption which is the leading contributor of greenhouse gas emissions city-wide; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that communities join to solve the climate crisis, and the *Florida Race To Zero* carbon emissions campaign provides a platform to bring attention to climate risks and necessary actions with businesses, industry, citizens, and frontline communities, and to bring awareness of the climate crisis, the *VoLo Foundation* whose mission includes accelerating change and global impact by supporting science-based climate solutions, enhancing education, and improving health is hosting events with expert guest speakers throughout **Florida Climate Week**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, Mayor of the city of Tampa, do hereby commit the City of Tampa to the Florida Race to Zero pledge, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 2-8, 2023, as

"FLORIDA CLIMATE WEEK"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in recognizing the impact climate change has on our community and in doing what we can as individuals and collectively to solve and mitigate its devastating effects.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29th day of September 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor